

IMPLEMENTATION DOCUMENT
FOR THE
UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER AREA

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ABSTRACT

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TITLE: Implementation Document for the Upper Chattahoochee River Area

ABSTRACT: The Chattahoochee National Forest is at a crossroads in the management of the dispersed recreation resource. Past management practices have allowed negative environmental impacts to occur. With the existing resource damage and continued increasing demand on a limited resource, a new way of managing dispersed recreation areas must be implemented. The Purpose of this paper is to provide an implementation document to provide for the integrated management of all resources with primary emphasis on the dispersed recreation resource for the 18,000 acre Upper Chattahoochee River Area located on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

As an implementation document for the Chattahoochee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, the document is divided into three sections:

1. General description of Upper Chattahoochee River Area
2. Description of current management guidelines and practices
3. Proposal for future management

The proposal for future management recommends a two step process of implementing measures to repair existing environmental damage and develop a marketing plan in the near future to meet future management needs.

KEYWORDS: Implementation Document, Dispersed Recreation, Marketing

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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SUMMARY: Dispersed recreation management is a real problem with Forest Service managers in on-the-ground situations. This paper is to be used as an implementation document for the integrated management of resources in the Upper Chattahoochee River Area (UCRA)..

The Upper Chattahoochee River Area is an 18,000 acre area located on the Chattahoochee National Forest which receives heavy dispersed recreation use. The area is currently managed utilizing a management

area concept under the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (FLMP). Standards and guidelines have been established for the management of resources within each particular management area.

Management priorities have not been on the dispersed recreation resource and due to that fact this area has had severe environmental impacts from dispersed recreation overuse. Due to the nature of the impacts combined with the amount of visitor use the Forest Supervisor created an interdisciplinary team to develop an implementation document for the area.

The team was assembled in November 1988 and made a tentative proposal to the Forest Supervisor and his Staff in February 1989. The original proposal was the basic ID team approach of identifying the problems and coming up with a logical solution. The initial solution was based on the premise that the Forest Service is the manager of the land and they know what the best solution should be. The document was not finalized as the author of this paper (who was the ID team leader) was to attend the Clemson Recreation Short Course. It was felt that this would make a good project for the course. The original proposal provided primarily for the repair and rehabilitation of the current environmental damage but did not provide for the needs, wants and desires of the customers.

This document is divided into three sections. The first section

is a general description of the UCRA which includes administration, location and access, geography, minerals, soil and water, flora and fauna. The second section gives a summary of the current management situation and a short synopsis of how the different resources are being managed and the problems, if any, associated with each resource. The synopsis include management areas, timber, wildlife, engineering (roads, bridges, parking and signs) and recreation (horseback riding, hiking, off-road vehicles, camping, law enforcement, hunting and fishing).

The third section is devoted to the future management proposal. The proposal is a two step process.

1. Develop measures which will begin to repair the environmental damage and solve some of the problems identified in the current management situation.
2. In the future develop a marketing plan which will allow for the accomplishment of the Forest Service's mission, goals and objectives as well as meet the needs, wants and desires of the visitors utilizing the area.

The implementation of this two step process will allow for the current and future management of an area that is worn out and overused to be used by future generations to come.

INTRODUCTION

Dispersed recreation and how to successfully manage it is a problem facing the Forest Service across the nation, particularly in light of the fact that the Forest Service is the major provider of outdoor recreation in the United States(1). Because of this fact the Forest Service is facing major problems in providing a quality recreation experience with an increasing volume of users.

While the Forest Service has many developed facilities the major impact of total visitor use occurs on the dispersed recreation resource. Historically, primary emphasis has been placed on the developed recreation resource, due in part to the fact that it generates income to the treasury, and the direct management of the dispersed recreation resource has basically been ignored. Due to the "overuse", which is the number of users exceeding the capacity of a given site over an extended period of time (several years), by the using public this resource can no longer be ignored. This overuse results in negative environmental impacts, which include loss of ground cover and low shrub plants, compaction and exposure of mineral soil, increased sedimentation into trout streams, large trees killed or damaged by exposure of roots or direct abuse to trunk of trees and the inadequate disposal of human and animal waste.

In light of decreasing budgets, increasing demand by the public, and the negative environmental impacts that have occurred and will continue to occur on the dispersed recreation resource, if present management emphasis continues, it is now time for the Forest Service to look at new ways and make bold advances in the management of this limited resource.

OBJECTIVE

To develop an integrated resource management document (implementation document) for the Upper Chattahoochee River Area (UCRA) located on the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia. The document should meet the visitors needs, wants and desires, emphasize recreation opportunities, control overuse, rehabilitate environmental damage and allow for the coordinated use of all resources.

The adverse environmental impacts occurring in this area primarily from dispersed recreation use have become so severe that the Forest Supervisor deemed it necessary that a management document should be prepared to provide for the orderly management and development of the resources in this area. This document is an extension of the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forests Land and Resource Management Plan (FLMP) and will be in effect until such time as the FLMP is revised. At that time the UCRA Implementation Document should be incorporated into the FLMP.

UPPER CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER AREA GENERAL DESCRIPTION

ADMINISTRATION

Responsibility

This 18,000 acre area is administered by the Chattooga Ranger District in Clarkesville, Georgia. Being a part of the Chattahoochee Wildlife Management Area (WMA), the wildlife resource is managed cooperatively by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Game and Fish Division (DNR). There is one private tract within the boundaries of the UCRA and private tracts border the area northeast of Blue Mountain and along the southern boundary of the area.

AREA DESCRIPTION

Location and Access

The UCRA is situated northwest of Helen, Georgia between highways 348, 75, 180 and 356 in White County. The area's north and west borders lie along the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains from Unicoi Gap to Tesnatee Gap. The headwaters of the Chattahoochee River, Low Gap Creek, Jasus Creek and Bear Den Creek are included. Access is via the above routes plus Forest Service Roads 44, 44A, 44B, 44C, 44D, 44E, 44F, 44G, 178 and 224 and the Appalachian Trail.

The major population center of Atlanta, Georgia is a two hour drive away; Chattanooga, Tennessee is two and one-half hours away; Asheville, North Carolina and Greenville, South Carolina are three and one-half hours away; and Knoxville, Tennessee is four hours distance.

Geography

Elevation within the area varies from 1,800 feet above M.S.L. on the Chattahoochee River to 4,005 feet above M.S.L. between Spaniards Knob and Henson Gap. Horse Trough Falls, Chattahoochee Falls, the spring source of the Chattahoochee River, numerous other streams, high peaks, coves, ridges and rock outcrops combine to create a rich visual diversity.

Minerals

There are no known mineral deposits of commercial value within the area; however, one mineral and gas exploration lease has been issued.

Soil and Water

Soils occurring within the drainageways are typically deep (40-60 inches to

bedrock) and well drained. Floodplain areas range from narrow (20-30 feet wide), V-shaped zones in the upper headwaters to broad (50-150 feet wide), flat zones along the major streams. Flooding may occur occasionally for brief periods in the narrow zones and rarely on the broad zones. Erosion hazard is slight to moderate on these soils. The soils are derived from geologic sources underlying the surrounding ridges and sideslopes.

Included within these soil types are small areas of poorly drained soils which may present problems with seasonal wetness. A detailed site evaluation is recommended when planning management activities in the drainageways(2).

Flora

Approximately 1200 species of plants have been recorded in the Chattahoochee National Forest (3). Since plant surveys for this area have not been completed, a detailed account of the flora cannot be presented; however, lily-leaved twayblade or mauve sleekwort (Liparis Liliafolia), yellow lady slipper and moccasin flower (Cypripedium calceolus and acaule), golden seal (Hydrastis canadensis) and outstanding individual trees of the genus/species Liriodendron tulipifera and Quercus alba, have been reported in the area.

The area is primarily a second growth hardwood forest with upland hardwoods comprising 55% and cove hardwoods comprising 14% of the area. The majority of timber is in excess of 60 years old. (4)

Fauna

Approximately 345 species of wildlife and fishes occur in the oak-hickory ecosystem of the Chattahoochee National Forest. While not all of these species occur in the UCRA, a great percentage do occur. Common game species include deer, squirrel, grouse, turkey and bear.

CURRENT MANAGEMENT SITUATION

The Chattahoochee National Forest is directly confronted with an urban interface problem of the greatest proportions. There are 17 million people within a 4 hour drive and 3 million within a one hour drive of the UCRA. Approximately 25% of the use is derived from people with less than a one hour drive and 75% drive longer than one hour to the area(5). The visitors are creating a tremendous impact on the dispersed recreation resource in this area, so much so that they are actually destroying one of the places they like to visit most.

The UCRA is one of the most popular dispersed recreation areas on the Chattahoochee National Forest. With its close proximity to Alpine Helen, Georgia (3 million visitors per year(6)), the Atlanta metropolitan area, and being the closest "mountains" to visitors from Florida, use is increasing at a rapid rate. Visitor use in this area in the last decade has increased 250%(7). The highways on the perimeter of the UCRA receive extremely heavy use with Highway 75, the eastern boundary, receiving 621 thousand vehicles/yr., Highway 356, the southern boundary, receiving 343 thousand vehicles/yr., and Highway 348, the western boundary, receiving 69 thousand vehicles/yr(8). FS Road 44, the primary interior road of the area receives approximately 60 thousand vehicles/year(9). There could be as many as 3 million people per year traveling the perimeter of this area and as many as 2 hundred thousand people using the area itself.

Historically, primary management emphasis has been on the timber and wildlife resource in the area. The management of the dispersed recreation resource in the UCRA has not been a top priority as emphasis has been on the developed recreation resource across the forest. The Forest Service has always managed the dispersed resource from a "looking back" point of view.

USE SEASON

The primary use season in the area is from the opening of trout fishing season, which is the last weekend in March, to the end of the last WMA hunt in late November. The heaviest use during this period is from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day weekend and the month of October, with the greatest demand being concentrated on the weekends. The area receives less use during December through March with most traffic being from small game hunters and wintertime sightseers.

Following is a short summary of how the area is currently being managed.

FOREST LAND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The resources in the UCRA are currently managed under the FLMP. Under the plan, the area is divided into management areas (MA) with direction on how each will be managed. The direction establishes the management emphasis for each management area and defines suitable management practices including which are

preferred and what products are anticipated. Suitable practices for individual resources are defined in the Standards and Guidelines established for each management area. Within the area there are 6 different management areas as described in the FLMP. The boundaries currently established for these areas are not totally accurate and are in need of revision. (see appendix for description of management areas)

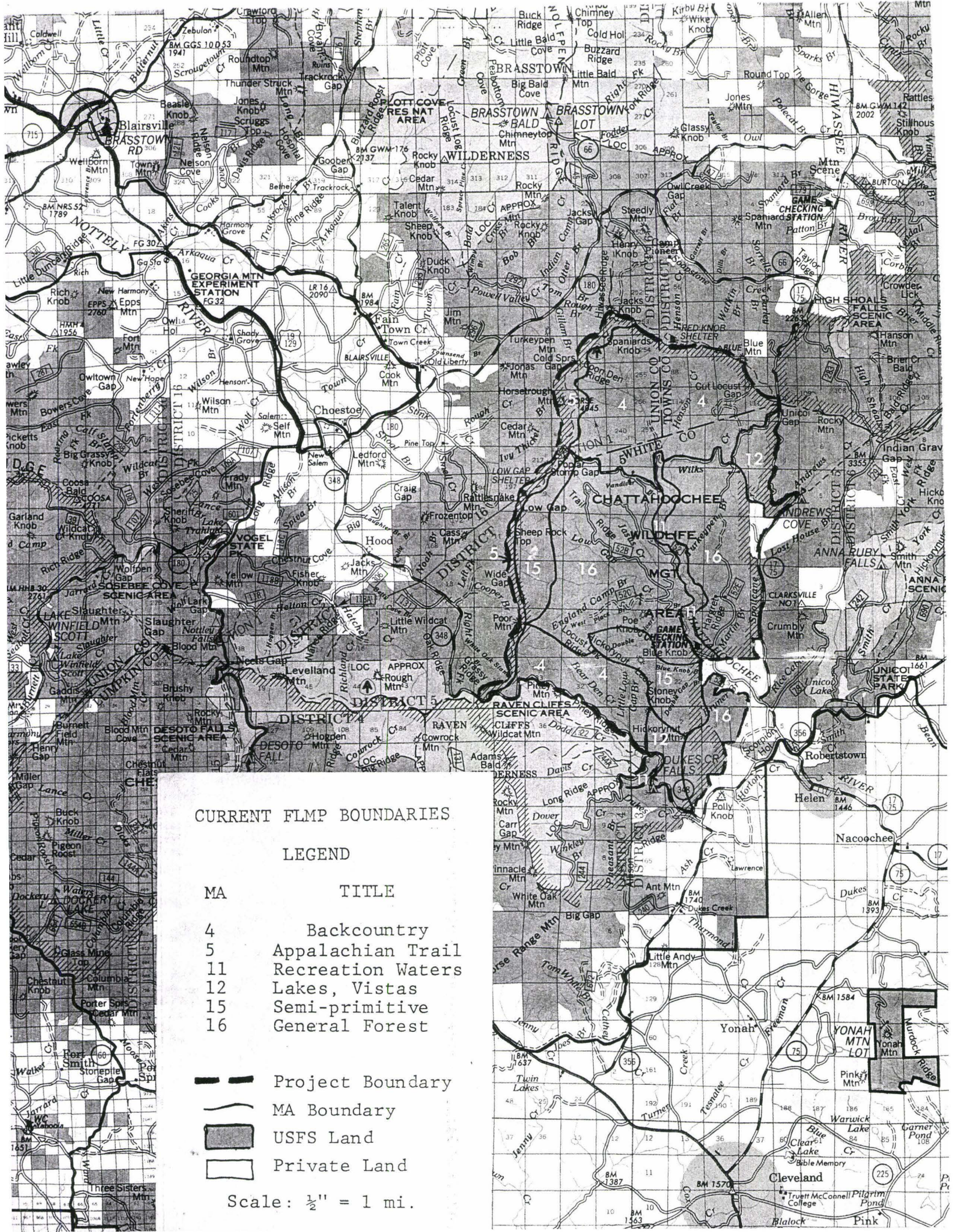
MANAGEMENT AREAS

MA No.	Title	Acres
4	Backcountry	6300
5	Appalachian National Scenic Trail	864
11	Recreation Waters	531
12	Major Lakes, Vistas & Seen Areas	1340
15	Semi-primitive non-motorized	2080
16	General Forest	6885

The FLMP requires that separate implementation documents be completed for MA 4 areas. There are two distinct MA 4 areas within the boundaries of the UCRA. The Chattahoochee River MA 4 document is currently being written. The Bear Den MA 4 is scheduled to be completed by FY 93. This document will be integrated with the MA 4 documents so that there will be no conflicts with implementation.

TIMBER

Timber management in the UCRA currently follows Standards & Guidelines for individual management areas in the area. There are 17 compartments within the



CURRENT FLM POUND BOUNDARIES

LEGEND

MA	TITLE
4	Backcountry
5	Appalachian Trail
11	Recreation Waters
12	Lakes, Vistas
15	Semi-primitive
16	General Forest

- Project Boundary
- MA Boundary
- USFS Land
- Private Land

Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 mi.

UCRA boundary, of which 7 are contained in MA 4 areas and prescribed work will be covered in the implementation documents for these areas. The remaining compartments project work is planned using the prescriptionist/ ID team process as established in the FLMP.

WILDLIFE

17,500 acres of the UCRA is contained within the boundaries of the Chattahoochee WMA; therefore, the wildlife resource is managed cooperatively by the USFS and DNR. Wildlife management follows Standards and Guidelines for individual management areas as established in the FLMP. DNR currently maintains 37 wildlife openings totaling 45 acres in the UCRA.

ENGINEERING

Roads

There are 39.2 miles of Forest Service system roads in the area. Due to inadequate funding in recent years the roads have been maintained on a priority basis and the roads are slowly deteriorating. Roads opened only for short duration are low priority and receive minimal maintenance. DNR assists with equipment and manpower when available to assist with road maintenance.

FS 44 is the primary access road into the interior of the area. The road is in poor condition, and during wet weather sections of the road are impassable in a 2 wheel drive vehicle.

ROAD SUMMARY

ROAD # & NAME	ML	OPEN SEASON	LENGTH
44 CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER RD.	4	A	14.8
178 MARTIN BRANCH RD.	2	B	5.1
		A	3.0
44A UPPER LOW GAP CREEK	4	A	1.0
44B LOWER LOW GAP CREEK	2	A	.7
44C AUGUSTINE GAP RD.	2	C	7.0
44D POPLAR STUMP	2	C	1.6
44E VANDIVER FIELDS	2	C	.7
44F CRAIN FIELDS	3	C	.9
44G HENSON GAP	1	C	2.0
224 APPLE ORCHARD	3	B	2.4
OPEN SEASON: A - Yearround, B - Managed Deer Hunts 8 days and Turkey season, C- Managed Deer Hunts ML-Maintenance Level			

Bridges

Stream crossings are a major concern in the area. A new concrete plank ford provides the crossing of the Chattahoochee River for FS 178; however, because of the high water level over the ford access will be difficult or hazardous for many vehicles. The three concrete bridges on FS 44 (Low Gap Cr., Jasus Cr., and Chattahoochee River) at present can handle the existing traffic but need to be considered for replacement in the future. There are two concrete fords on FS 44A and both are in need of extensive repair or replacement. In 1989, a new

bridge was constructed on FS 224 to cross Dukes Cr. and a new gravel ford was constructed to cross Davis Cr..

Parking

Parking is a severe problem on FS 44 between Martin Branch and the DNR game check-in station. The situation during heavy use periods becomes so congested that a vehicle traveling the road has difficulty negotiating through all of the parked vehicles.

RECREATION

While there are 18,000 acres included in the area the vast majority of use occurs primarily on a small percentage of this acreage. Past management practices have kept the garbage picked up, used patrols to enforce major violations, closed areas when environmental impacts become too severe, and otherwise allowed the public full use of the area.

The primary dispersed use occurs in the MA 11 and 16 portions of the area. The Standards and Guidelines given for the management of the dispersed recreation resource for these specific areas states:

Maintain existing, heavily used dispersed recreational sites at a level that will not create environmental degradation. Stabilize soils on eroded recreational sites through revegetation, traffic control, or closing of site, depending on land suitability.(11)

At the present time these dispersed sites are not being kept to this standard.

The recreational activities and associated problems on the area can be divided into the following groups.

Horseback Riding

Despite the fact that no trails or camping areas are currently designated for horse use, horseback riding occurs on system roads, closed roads and cross country. Horse use is increasing annually and conflicts are beginning to arise between horse campers and regular campers. Evidence and reports of horse use on the Appalachian Trail are becoming more frequent and horses using FS Road #44 are a traffic hazard with the high volume of vehicle traffic on the road.

Hiking

14.9 miles of the Appalachian Trail traverses the northern boundary of this area. The only other developed trail within this area is the Horse Trough Falls Trail. It is a half mile developed trail along the Chattahoochee River and Horse Trough Creek to an attractive waterfalls. Many visitors utilize closed and old roads as hiking trails; however, due to lack of signs and poor maps visitors becoming lost is a regular occurrence.

Off-Road Vehicles

DNR and USFS personnel find ORV use within the area all year with increased levels during summer months and managed hunts. The District has begun a concentrated effort of informing ORV users of current rules and regulations and enforcing compliance. There is some evidence of ORV use off of developed roads.

Camping

At the present time there are no developed camping sites available; however, camping occurs year round in the area. Throughout the area adjacent to roads and many near water are numerous isolated camping sites as well as 5 large sites of concentrated use. A summary of the 5 larger sites are as follows:

Martin Branch - Located at the intersection of FS 44 and 178 is a small, over-used camping area with extremely heavy day use. This area currently holds as many as 10 separate camps. No sanitary facilities, drinking water, or garbage disposal are available. As many as 50 cars may be parked in and around this area on opening day of trout season. The new ford on FS 178 makes this area more difficult to access because of the depth of the water over the ford.

Low Gap Creek - Located along the entire lengths of FS 44A and 44B the area is a large, over-used camping area with moderate to heavy day use. This area stretches along 1.5 miles of Low Gap Creek both above and below where Low Gap Creek passes under FS 44. On primary recreation season weekends there have been noted as many as 100 individual camps set up in this area. Conflicts are beginning to develop between horse camp users and regular camping users. No sanitary facilities or drinking water are available. A dumpster is provided for garbage collection and is located on FS 44-A. A small amount of this area has been posted "no camping".

Jasus Creek - Located on FS 44 at Jasus Creek the area is a small, over-used camping area with moderate day use. The area stretches along 0.25 miles of Jasus Creek both above and below the road where the creek passes under FS 44. The area below FS 44 has been closed to vehicles for 4 years and is slowly rehabilitating. This area is open to walk-in campers only. No sanitary facilities, drinking water, or garbage disposal are available at this site.

Chattahoochee River - Located at the intersection of FS 44 and 44F the area is a large over-used camping area with moderate to heavy day use which stretches up both the Chattahoochee River and Henson Creek. Campers are creating new campsites on an annual basis. In this area during heavy use periods as many as 80 individual camps have been noted. No sanitary facilities or drinking water

are available at this site. A dumpster is located for garbage collection at the intersection of FS 44 and FS 44-F. The upper portion of this area adjacent to the Chattahoochee River was closed under the implementation of the MA 4 guidelines and is beginning to show signs of rehabilitation.

White Oak Gap - Located along FS 224 is presently a dispersed area just being discovered and opened up. Overcrowding in the previously mentioned areas and the closure of dispersed camping on Dukes Creek have encouraged people to begin using this area. This area is directly South of the Raven Cliffs Wilderness and directly accessed by the Russell-Brasstown Scenic Byway. There is moderate day use, which is steadily increasing. No sanitary facilities, drinking water, or garbage disposal are available at this location.

Major problems at all of the sites both large and small are stream bank erosion, soil compaction with exposed tree roots, hazard trees due to camper inflicted wounds, disposal of human waste (a.k.a. Summer Snow Storm Syndrome) and the unsatisfactory removal of camper-related garbage. Currently the public can set up a camp in any location that is not posted "no camping". Much of the impact on many of the sites is from vehicles being able to access all of the wide flat areas adjacent to the streams. No public drinking water or sanitary facilities are available in the UCRA.

Law Enforcement

Inadequate law enforcement is a frequent problem. The USFS, DNR and White County Sheriffs Department work cooperatively in providing law enforcement; however, due to the influx of large numbers of people, there is not adequate manpower to cover the entire area, and people related incidents continue to be a major problem in the area. In 1988 the law enforcement personnel issued 200 violation notices, 400 written warnings, and unnumbered verbal warnings for everything from cutting green trees to controlled substance violations. (11).

Hunting and Fishing

As a major portion of the 23,000 acre Chattahoochee WMA, the UCRA receives peak hunting use during the DNR's two, 4-day managed hunts. Deer and bear hunts attracted 900 hunters in 1988 with a record kill of 128 deer and 12 bear during the 1988 season. The 1988 turkey hunt attracted 150 hunters for 1,000 man-days. Small game hunting attracts approximately 1,000 man-days.(12)

The area receives extremely heavy fishing pressure as the main streams where fishermen congregate are a put-and-take fishery. Trout fishermen can be found throughout the entire area, with major pressure associated with stocking locations, every day of trout season in search of rainbow and brown trout.

Current Management Summary

Resources other than the dispersed recreation resource and roads have been well managed under past management practices. Under the present situation the UCRA's dispersed recreation sites have become devastated with sites totally void of vegetation, major erosion problems, human waste control problems, hazard trees due to camper inflicted wounds, roots and rocks protruding, congestion on roads and camper conflicts. At present the current management is not keeping up with the problems and environmental impacts that are occurring to the resource due to recreation use.

FUTURE MANAGEMENT SITUATION

The current management situation under the FLMP allows for the integrated management of all resources. The FLMP addresses the impacts on the dispersed recreation resource; however, these impacts have been given a lower priority by managers. These impacts are real problems that must be dealt with and can no longer ignored. The Forest Service can not afford to just stay with the status quo in the management of the UCRA. It must look at a new way of managing this area if the Forest Service is to truly implement its motto "Caring for the Land and Serving the People". This statement clearly defines management of the dispersed resource and as prudent managers, the Forest Service has an obligation to do both.

The nature of the environmental impacts that have occurred and will continue to occur require management immediately to begin "Caring for the Land." There is enough flexibility under the FLMP and its associated Standards and Guidelines to implement the Caring portion of the motto. However, this does not totally resolve the problem of "Serving the People."

Therefore, a two step process is proposed that will allow for the "Care of the Land" as well as provide for "Serving the People." The first step is to "Care for the Land" by developing implementable measures which will begin to repair some of the environmental impacts and resolve some of the existing problems. The second step is to "Serve the People" by meeting the customers needs, wants and desires.

Step 1-Caring for the Land

The Standards and Guidelines established in the FLMP provide good direction for the management of the integrated resources in this area. It is realized that funding becomes a problem in the implementation of the standards and guidelines; however, emphasis must be placed on actions necessary to alleviate the negative environmental impacts if the Forest Service is to truly "Care for the Land."

FLMP MANAGEMENT AREAS

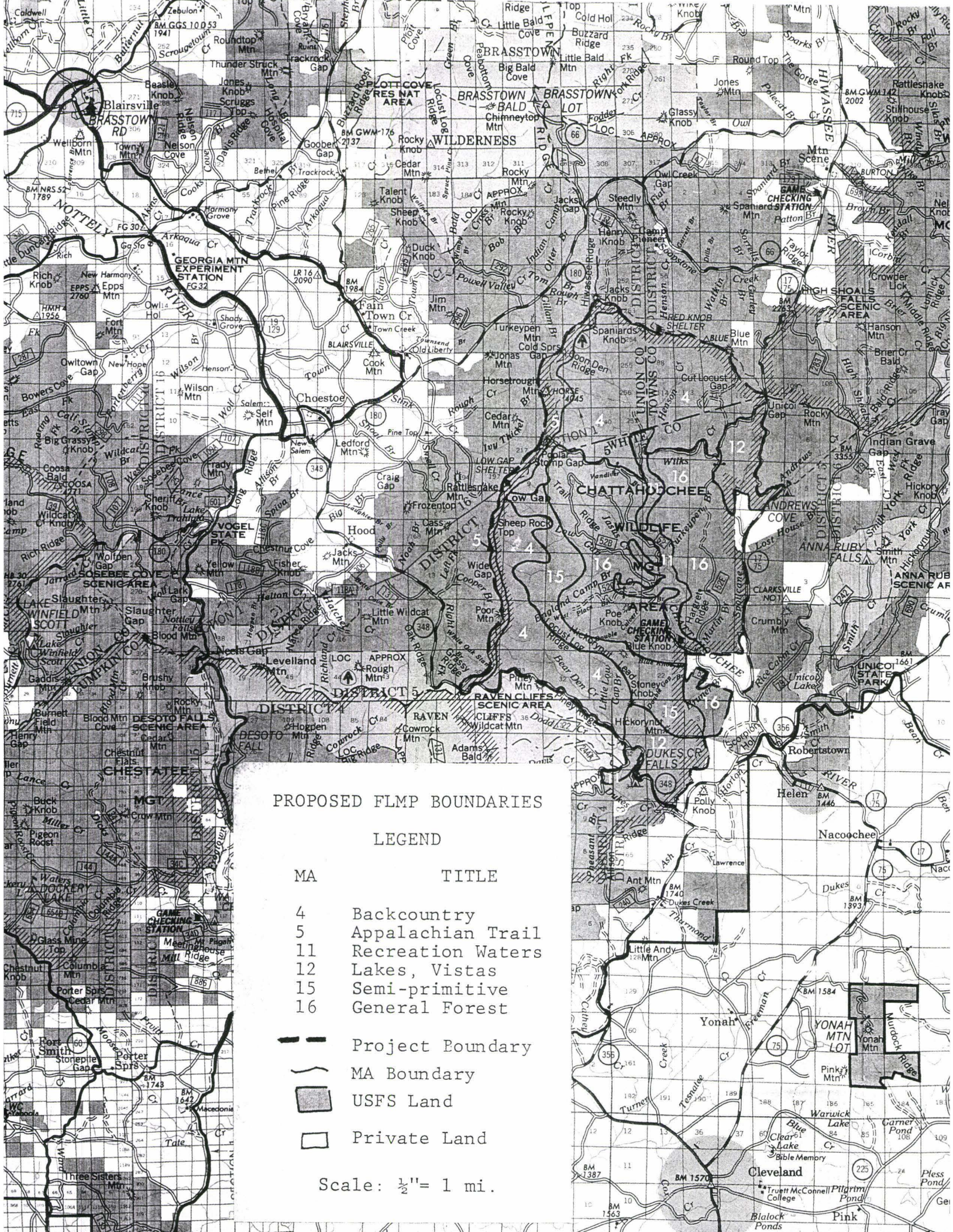
Management Area boundaries not constituting a major change to the FLMP should be implemented at this time. MA boundary changes constituting a major change to the FLMP should wait until such time that the FLMP is revised. The attached map shows recommended boundary changes that should be considered when the FLMP is revised. Until such time it is recommended that all prescribed activities be looked at with these potential changes in mind. Prescriptionists need to make a special effort to ensure that all lands are properly classified and make recommendations for proper location of management area boundaries.

MANAGEMENT AREA CHANGES

MA No.	Title	Existing Acres	Proposed Acres
4	Backcountry	6300	6900
5	Appalachian Trail	864	864
11	Recreation Waters	531	822
12	Lakes, Vistas & Seen Areas	1340	1969
15	Semi-primitive non-motorized	2080	2100
16	General Forest	6885	5345
Total Acreage		18000	18000

TIMBER

Timber management should follow Standards and Guidelines established for individual management areas within the boundaries of the UCRA. It must be realized that even though this area contains 5,345 acres of MA 16, it is a very sensitive area from the public viewpoint. "Normal" timber management may not be feasible even though it is within MA 16.



PROPOSED FLMP BOUNDARIES

LEGEND

MA	TITLE
4	Backcountry
5	Appalachian Trail
11	Recreation Waters
12	Lakes, Vistas
15	Semi-primitive
16	General Forest

- Project Boundary
- MA Boundary
- USFS Land
- Private Land

Scale: $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1 mi.

WILDLIFE

Manage wildlife in cooperation with DNR according to the FLMP Standards and Guidelines established for individual management areas within the boundaries of the UCRA.

ENGINEERING

Roads

At the present time the location of the current permanent road system is adequate to access the area for prescribed activities. As timber sale projects and Southern Pine Beetle salvage sales are implemented, roads being used should be set up for reconditioning and reconstruction as needed. FS 44 and FS44A need complete reconditioning to bring up to maintenance level 4 standard and to handle existing recreation traffic. DNR should be encouraged to provide as much maintenance assistance as possible.

Bridges

The three bridges on FS 44 are currently set up for replacement in the forest capital investment program. These bridges are currently safe but will need

replacing in the near future. Additionally, the 2 fords on FS 44A should also be set up for immediate repair or replacement in the forest capital investment program.

Parking

Parking in the congested areas will be at designated sites only in order to alleviate the traffic congestion problem. At the present time the primary congested area is on FS 44 from Martin Branch to the DNR game check-in station. Adequate parking must be designated in order to disperse hunters, day users and fishermen and keep the roadway safe for vehicle travel. As other congested areas are identified, parking should be designated by construction of adequate parking spaces and adequate signing.

Signs

A sign plan should be developed that will provide for adequate road location and direction information throughout the entire area for visitors as well as emergency personnel trying to locate accidents in the area.

RECREATION

Recreation management should basically follow the Standards and Guidelines established in the FLMP with the following recommendations to assist in beginning to repair the existing environmental impacts and associated problems.

Horseback Riding

Designated routes must be developed specifically for horse use, utilizing existing closed system roads, old road beds and constructing new trails where needed. Horses will be allowed to cross and ride short designated portions of FS 44 to tie trails together but will not be allowed to ride the entire road. Sign all horse trail crossings on FS 44 and post all trails and areas where horses are prohibited to ride. (This will keep horses off of main roads, keep horses out of regular camping areas and provide horse persons with a good place to ride.)

Develop area specifically for horse users for camping and day use activities and trail head location.

Hiking

In addition to the existing foot trails and the proposed horse trails begin

construction of foot trails as outlined in the Chattahoochee River MA 4 document. This will aid in dispersing hikers, overnight campers, hunters and fishermen to the more isolated portions of the UCRA. Ensure that existing and future trails are properly signed. Additional hiking trails may be needed; however, they should be included in the marketing step of this proposal to determine needs of the public.

Off Road Vehicles

At the present time ORV'S will be allowed only on system roads if they meet current laws and regulation established by the State of Georgia and the Forest Supervisor.

Camping

Stated previously is the fact that camping and its related activities has caused a tremendous impact on the environment in the UCRA. Measures should be taken immediately to lessen the impact and begin rehabilitating the resource.

Immediate Implementation Measures

1. Develop inventory and monitoring system

In order to provide good baseline data to determine extent of damage and to monitor activities over time a good monitoring and inventory system must be utilized. The system should allow for the following 4 items that will:(13)

- 1) assist in establishing management priorities
- 2) to allow for the management of individual or specific sites
- 3 provide relationship to preset standards
- 4) assist in developing long range plans and capacities

Geographic Information system (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) should be utilized to provide for accurate mapping and record keeping of existing situation and activities as they are implemented.

2. Utilize inventory data to determine best potential layout of campsites and facilities

Upon completion of inventory and tentative layout, the following activities should begin by priority assigned in the inventory with worst impacts and problems being addressed first:

- a. From inventory remove all hazard trees which pose legal liabilities.
- b. Install lantern posts according to scoping layout for best campsite location to avoid new trees from being scarred by lantern burns.
- c. In strategic locations install toilet facilities to handle human waste.

- d. Install wells for drinking water.
- e. Install barriers to control vehicle access.
- . Install bulletin boards at toilet facilities and other strategic locations to inform users of rules and regulations.
- g. Locate firerings in preferred campsite locations and remove all other firerings.

Hunting and Fishing

With current use trends hunting pressure will probably level off and fishing pressure will continue to increase. DNR will continue to regulate open seasons. Additional enforcement is necessary to prevent violators from catching a majority of the fish too quickly. DNR should be encouraged to stock more than once a week to lessen the impact on stocking locations from once a week stocking.

Step 2 - Serving the People

The National Recreation Strategy Stated:

Our Customers are changing. Find out who they might be where they live and what they might want to experience on a National Forest. As you expand recreation opportunities, do not overlook those kinds of recreation that our National Forests can best provide. Match the people and place for customer satisfaction.(14)

If the Forest Service is to follow the recreation strategy established by its chief and implement its motto, then a way must be found to meet the customers needs, wants, and desires. Under the current management the customers needs are being somewhat fulfilled as customers continue to flock to the area; however, negative environmental impacts continue to occur.

The current management processes under the FLMP allowed for public involvement, but this involvement did not necessarily come from the direct users of the area and does not necessarily meet the needs, wants, and desires of those customers. A new way of managing must be implemented in order to meet the needs of the customers. The first key principle identified by the Chief of the Forest Service in the new management philosophy is "All directions, procedures and operations begin with a focus on the needs of our customers.(15)

A management tool that provides for the needs of the customer is marketing. Simply stated marketing is "determining the needs and wants of the marketplace and then delivering the desired satisfaction".(16)

Marketing is the best management tool to use to focus on the needs of our customers; however, marketing is not readily accepted by all Forest Service employees due to an inherent bias against it, because they do not understand its concepts.(17)

Marketing has been utilized in the private sector for many years and marketers believe that the principles can be transferred to the public sector(17)and

there are now success stories to prove it. Before marketing can be implemented as a workable tool, internal marketing must be accomplished to gain support of employees.

In utilizing marketing as a management tool in marketing dispersed recreation, the manager must recognize that public agencies have unique characteristics which must be worked around and that the recreation resource itself is not a product to be produced but a highly intangible service.(18)

Once these characteristics are understood, marketing can be used as a useful tool to tie the Forest Service's mission, goals, and objectives for the UCRA with the customers needs, wants, and desires.

Because such a diverse group of customers utilize the UCRA, a marketing plan for the area would allow for the target markets to be identified, segmented and analyzed. Then the National Forests can position themselves to best meet the needs of the customers while still allowing the agency to meet their mission, goals, and objectives for the area.(19)

Future Management Summary

At the present time there is a large visitor impact on the UCRA and it must be realized that these people are meeting certain needs. It is important that

unless absolutely necessary the measures taken in the first step of the process do not significantly alter the environment of this area as to deter the public or take away from their experience until the second step can be developed and implemented. These two steps must go hand in hand in order to satisfy the customers needs, repair environmental damage, and control overuse.

SUMMARY

Even if current management were fully implemented and total priority were placed on the dispersed recreation resource, the National Forest would fail in their duty to "Serve the People." Public involvement was considered in current management but the needs of the customer using the area were not. Because of the environmental impacts that have occurred and will continue to occur, it is imperative that current UCRA management practices must change.

It must be realized that the proposed two step process will not immediately repair all of the impacts or resolve all of the problems; however, it has the ability to satisfy the stated objective of "Caring for the Land and Serving the People" as well as help set the Chattahoochee National Forest on a new course for the future in the management of areas like the UCRA.

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APPENDIX

- A- Management Area Summaries, Chattahoochee-Ocoonee National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.
- B- Literature Review

MANAGEMENT AREA 4 (31,617 acres)

Description

This management area contains eight tracts of rugged high-elevation land on the Chattahoochee National Forest. They are:

Blood Mountain - 4,475 acres (03, 04)
~~Chattahoochee River~~ - 5,404 acres (04, 06)
Overflow - 3,951 acres (05)
Rich Mountain - 6,736 acres (02)
Rabun Bald - 1,598 acres (05)
Patterson Gap - 6,000 acres (05)
Tate Branch - 1,453 acres (05)
Cochran Falls - 2,000 acres (03)

All acres are classified as "Not Appropriate for Timber Production - Other Objectives Cannot be Met."

Management Goals

Provide an area of old growth timber where recreationists can experience a degree of solitude not generally found in the general Forest area. The appearance of an essentially natural environment would prevail.

Management Direction

Management area 4 provides semi-primitive recreation opportunities. Consequently, the area is to be maintained as a low intensity management area where timber cutting activities are permitted only to achieve recreational or wildlife objectives. Timber cutting may also be used for diseased or damaged trees. This area provides a variety of hunting opportunities--primarily deer, turkey, squirrel, grouse, and bear. Quality rather than quantity of hunting and fishing will be the goal. The area will be accessed primarily by foot or horse trails, except where roads are needed for administrative purposes, resource treatments, or to disperse recreation use.

The Appalachian Trail and its related structures (shelters) will be administered in cooperation with the National Park Service, the Appalachian Trail Conference and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement, the Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan, and FSM 2353, R-8 Supplement No. 42.

Management Area 4 - (cont.)

The following unique and delicate resource areas occur in this management area:

1. Blood Mountain complex
2. Upper Spoil Cane Creek
3. Horse Cove
4. Wolfpen Gap/Wolf Creek Cove
5. Ramp Gap/Little Rick Creek Cove
6. Keener Creek Bog
7. Patterson Gap
8. Rabun Bald complex



Management Area 4 - (cont.)

Recreation

Recreation Management

1. Semi-primitive motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities will be featured in this area.
2. Developed recreation use activities will be limited to rustic camping and picnicking facilities needed to disperse use. Appropriate sanitary facilities will be provided.
3. ORV use is prohibited.

Trails Management

1. A highly developed hiking trails network will be provided with accompanying trail head parking facilities and area trail maps.
2. Sign trails thoroughly. Feature 1-day loop trails and short interpretive trails.
3. As the need develops, consider constructing and designating horse trails.

Visual Quality

1. These lands have a VQO of retention.

Wildlife and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. Favor late successional management indicator species such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper.
2. No put-and-take trout stocking allowed. Periodic stocking to maintain breeding stock will be permitted.
3. Fish habitat activities, such as constructing stream barrier structures, using native materials, rough fish removal, and stocking of trout may be carried out.
4. Prescribed burning is permitted for wildlife purposes.
5. Timber cutting for wildlife will be allowed to provide at least 5 percent of the area in the 0 to 10 year age class.

Management Area 4 - (Cont.)

6. Vegetation manipulation for wildlife habitat improvement will be planned for in the compartment prescription by district or S.O. wildlife biologist.
7. Wildlife habitat improvements may be created and maintained.

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. Timber cutting will be done to enhance recreation, wildlife and scenic values. Some cutting of timber may occur in the construction of trails and for safety of users. Timber volumes removed will be reported as non-chargeable timber yield.
2. Maximum size of openings is 10 acres. Group selection is the preferred method of timber harvest.
3. No conversion of hardwood to pine.
4. No pesticide use, except where needed for insect and disease control.
5. Fuelwood supply reduced in this management area since fuelwood gathering only permitted within areas cutover for timber.

Water

Watershed Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals and Energy

Exploration and Development

1. New mineral and energy leases will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy.
2. Operating plans relevant to mineral exploration or development will provide the maximum degree of surface protection.

Protection

All

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Management Area 4 - (Cont.)

Lands

Special Use Management

1. Special uses will be allowed to the extent that they are compatible with the objective of the area.

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads and Structures

1. Existing system roads will be closed unless needed to disperse recreational use.
2. No new system roads will be built unless specifically needed to disperse recreation users. Any additional roads needed for logging will be temporary.
3. Intermittent service roads may be built across these areas to access other management areas that are land locked by Management Area 4.

MANAGEMENT AREA 5 (7,166 acres)

Description

This management area consists of the lands visible as foreground from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail (AT) and the Springer Mountain approach trail, including the 200-foot-wide Trail corridor (100 feet on each side of Trail). As a minimum, this management area is 100 feet on each side of the Trail but in many places it is much wider. (Districts 02, 03, 04, 05, 06.) The trail traverses 79.5 miles of the Chattahoochee. All acres are classed as not appropriate for timber production - other objectives cannot be met.

Management Goals

In accordance with the direction in the National Trails System Act, to provide for maximum outdoor recreation potential and for the conservation and enjoyment of the significant scenic, historic, natural, or cultural qualities of the areas through which the Trail passes.

Management Direction

Protect the Trail from incompatible uses.

Minimize visual impact resulting from management activities.

Wherever appropriate, management activities will be directed toward a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation experience.

Administer the Trail in cooperation with the National Park Service, Appalachian Trail Conference and the Georgia Appalachian Trail Club (GATC) in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding and Cooperative Agreement, the Appalachian Trail Comprehensive Plan, and FSM 2353, R-8 Supplement No. 42.

Management Area 5 - (cont.)

Recreation

Trail Management

1. Construct/reconstruct and maintain trails according to Appalachian Trail Conference Stewardship Manual: Trail Design, Construction and Maintenance, 1981. Signing will be consistent with the Sign Handbook FSH (7109.11), except mileage to important features should be shown to the nearest tenth of a mile.
2. Horse travel, bicycle and any form of motorized travel are prohibited on Appalachian Trail.
3. Roaded natural recreation opportunities will be featured on 75 percent of the area. Semi-primitive opportunities will be featured on 25 percent of the area.
4. Trail relocation will be based upon the "Optimal Trail Location Review".

Cultural Resources

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Visual Quality

1. Land within the management area will have a visual quality objective (VQO) of retention.

Wildlife
and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. Favor late successional management indicator species such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper.
2. Develop and maintain habitat improvements complementary to the trail.

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. See FSM 2353.4--2(d), R-8 Supplement No. 42, 9/83.

Management Area 5 - (cont.)

Water

Watershed Management

1. Locate all shelters, toilets, and primitive camps in such a way that they cannot pollute drinking water sources. Educate users on low impact camping methods that protect drinking waters. See FSM 2353.4--12(e), R-8 Supplement No. 42, 9/83.

Minerals
and Energy

Exploration and Development

1. Mineral and energy leases will require special stipulations which will preclude surface occupancy.

Protection

Fire Management and Insect and Disease

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Special Use Management

1. Apply full mitigating measures to protect trail values and environment.

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads and Structures

1. Analyze all roads crossing or paralleling the Trail within one mile, for their potential undesirable impacts on the hiker and document as appropriate. Only allow road locations that are the only feasible and prudent alternative and after all impacts have been minimized (See FSM 2353.4--3(e), R-8 Supplement No. 42, 9/83).
2. Facilities will be limited to shelters, privies, stiles, spring boxes, registers, trailheads, and other facilities agreed to by the Conference and Clubs.

MANAGEMENT AREA 11 (14,347 acres)

Description

This management area consists of the major recreation waters and the adjoining lands that are dominated by riparian vegetation. These areas are normally heavily used for dispersed recreation. The width of the components of this management area varies from 400 to 1,000 feet. (Minimum width is 200 feet on each side of the associated body of water). The following waters are included in this management area:

Cochran Falls Creek - 200 acres (03)
Waters Creek - 378 acres (03)
Boggs Creek - 640 acres (03)
Dicks Creek - 640 acres (03)
Cooper Creek - 1,100 acres (02), (03)
Etowah River - 216 acres (03)
Jones Creek - 1,028 acres (03)
Nimblewill Creek - 378 acres (03)
Rock Creek - 780 acres (02)
Noontootla Creek - 774 acres (02)
Sea Creek - 90 acres (02)
Toccoa River - 2,183 acres (02)
~~Dukes Creek~~ - 360 acres ~~(06)~~
~~Chattahoochee River~~ - 1,064 acres ~~(06)~~
Swallows Creek - 280 acres (04)
Corbin Creek - 362 acres (04)
Bald Creek - 90 acres (04)
Helton Creek - 108 acres (04)
Tallulah River - 658 acres (05)
Sarah Creek - 90 acres (05)
Wildcat Creek - 234 acres (05)
West Armuchee Creek - 72 acres (01)
Conasauga River - 126 acres (07)
Holly Creek - 162 acres (07)
Mill Creek - 550 acres (07)
Murray's Lake - 18 acres (07)
Jacks River - 126 acres (07)
East Armuchee Creek - 200 acres (01)
~~Panther Creek~~ - 376 acres ~~(06)~~
Holcomb Creek - 159 acres (05)
Moccasin Creek - 545 acres (05)

All acres are suitable for timber production.

Management Area 11 - (cont.)

Management
Goals

Manage riparian areas in a near-natural condition for their value to wildlife, recreation, fishery and aquatic habitat, and water quality.

Emphasize the protection and enhancement of the major recreation waters and the adjoining lands and associated vegetation.

Management
Direction

Provide opportunities to improve water quality, minimize erosion, and stabilize or protect stream banks through specifically prescribed vegetation manipulation or structural means.

Provide opportunities to improve fisheries and wildlife habitat through specifically prescribed vegetation manipulation or structural means.

Management Area 11 - (cont.)

Recreation

Recreation Management

1. Semi-primitive (50 percent) and roaded natural (50 percent) recreation opportunities will be featured in this area.
2. Maintain existing primitive dispersed recreation sites at a level that will not create environmental degradation.

Visual Quality

1. These lands have a VQO of retention.

Wildlife
and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. Favor late successional management indicator species, such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper where the selection method is used. Favor early successional management indicator species, such as deer, grouse, and Indigo bunting where shelterwood method is used.
2. Activities designed to enhance fish and aquatic habitat, wildlife, water quality, or recreation shall be mutually compatible to assure long term maintenance of these resource values.
3. Existing wildlife openings in these areas will not be expanded.
4. New wildlife openings cannot exceed one acre in size.
5. Fish habitat activities, such as constructing stream structures, using native materials, rough fish removal, and stocking of trout species may be carried out.

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. Timber management activities are permitted with objective of protecting riparian and recreation values during logging operations.
2. Group selection and shelterwood are the preferred methods of cutting used to regenerate timber stands in these areas.

Management Area 11 - (cont.)

Timber
(cont.)

Timber Harvest (cont.)

3. Clearcutting will be allowed only when the silvicultural needs of the stand(s) in question cannot be met by using other methods of cutting. In these situations, maximum size of clearcutting will be 10 acres. Justification for clearcutting in these situations will be documented.

Water

Watershed Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals
and Energy

Exploration and Development

1. Mineral and energy leases will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy.

Protection

Fire Management and Insect and Disease

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Special Use Management

1. Any new utility installations will be underground.

Land Acquisition

1. Acquire through purchase, donation, or exchange those private lands which are needed and necessary to protect and enhance this recreation resource.

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads and Structures

1. Maintain current facilities at a level necessary to meet management goals for these areas.

MANAGEMENT AREA 12 (18,730 acres)

Description

This management area consists of major lakes, vistas, and seen areas. Included are the adjoining lands which vary in width depending upon the topography. The following areas are included in this management area:

Lake Blue Ridge - 2,416 acres (02)
~~Lake Russell Road~~ - 234 acres (06)
~~Yonah Mountain~~ - 1,444 acres (06)
Lake Chatuge - 216 acres (04)
Rocky Face - 1,416 acres (01)
~~Spoonhollow~~ - 684 acres (06)
Rock Eagle 4H - 126 acres (08)
Lake Oconee (Swords and Redlands) - 486 acres (08)
Grassy Ridge - 1,668 acres (05)
State Highways 60 and 180 - 3,286 acres (03)
Lake Burton - 90 acres (05)
Tallulah Falls - 72 acres (05)
~~Chenocetan~~ - 198 acres (06)
~~Richard Russell Highway~~ - 1,900 acres (04), (06)
State Highway 66 to Brasstown Bald - 900 acres (04)
Chestatee Overlook - 700 acres (03)
Woody Gap Vista - 500 acres (03)
Cohutta Overlook - 800 acres (07)
Lake Nottley - 800 acres (04)
Tate City - 796 acres (05)

All acres are suitable for timber production.

Management Goals

Maintain a visually appealing landscape.

Management Direction

Emphasize visually appealing features of the landscape.

Minimize visual impact resulting from management activities.

The following unique and delicate resource areas are located in this MA:

- a. ~~Yonah Mountain~~
- b. Till Cove - Messer Creek

Management Area 12 - (cont.)

Recreation

Recreation Management

1. Roaded natural recreation opportunities will be featured in this area.

Visual Quality

1. Manage to achieve a VQO of retention in foreground situations and a VQO of partial retention in middle ground situations.

2. Viewshed planning will be done for:

Brasstown Bald Road (04)

~~Lake Russell Road (06)~~

~~Spooncane Vista (06)~~

Rock Eagle Road (08)

State Highways 60 and 180 (03)

Grassy Ridge (05)

Rocky Face (01)

Lake Blue Ridge (02)

~~Richard Russell Highway (04), (06)~~

Wildlife
and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. Favor late successional management indicator species such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper where the selection method is used. Favor early successional management indicator species, such as deer, grouse, and Indigo bunting where the shelterwood method is used.
2. Wildlife habitat improvements are permitted.
3. Fish habitat activities, such as constructing stream barrier structures, using native materials, rough fish removal, and reintroduction of trout species may be carried out.
4. Work with the State to control wild boar in Till Cove through legal hunting.
5. Protect *Cymophyllus fraserii* colonies in Messer Creek.

Management Area 12 - (Cont.)

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. Group selection and shelterwood are the preferred methods of cutting used to regenerate timber stands in these areas. Clearcuts less than 10 acres will be permitted where it is the only means of regenerating timber (includes sparse and low quality stands). Justification for clearcutting in these situations will be documented.
2. Timber yields are chargeable yields.

Water

Watershed Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals
and Energy

Exploration and Development

1. Mineral and energy leases will require special stipulations management which may preclude surface occupancy.

Protection

Fire Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Special Use Management

1. Any new utility installations will be underground and unnoticeable in the foreground and unnoticeable in the remainder of the area.

Land Acquisition

1. Acquire those lands identified in recreation composite plans as necessary for area protection or future recreational development.

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads and Structures

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

MANAGEMENT AREA 15 (33,081 acres)

Description

This management area contains all lands offering a semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunity not already within the boundaries of other management areas. Area contains 1,000 acres of land that are not appropriate - not cost efficient for timber production, and 32,081 acres that are suitable for timber production.

Management Goals

To provide a setting characterized by a predominantly natural or natural-appearing environment where a non-motorized recreational opportunity can occur.

Management Direction

These areas will provide an alternative to recreationists who desire a less than wilderness experience in an area that is still managed in a compatible manner for all resources with emphasis on the quality of dispersed recreation.

Other resource uses, including timber management, will occur to the extent that they are compatible with or enhance the dispersed recreation opportunities.

Management Area 15 - (cont.)

Recreation

Recreation Management

1. Semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities will be featured in this area.

Visual Quality

1. These lands have a VQO of partial retention.

Wildlife
and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. Favor late successional management indicator species such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper where group selection method is used. Favor early successional management indicator species, such as deer, grouse, and Indigo Bunting where shelterwood method is used.
2. Newly created wildlife openings shall conform to visual and other resource constraints.
3. Fish habitat activities, such as constructing stream structures, using native materials, rough fish removal, and stocking of trout species may be carried out.

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. Group selection and shelterwood are the preferred methods of cutting used to regenerate timber stands in these areas. Shelterwood cutting areas should not exceed 25 acres.*
2. Clearcutting will be allowed only when the silvicultural needs of the stand(s) in question cannot be met by using other methods of cutting. In these situations, maximum size of clearcutting will be 10 acres. Justification for clearcutting in these situations will be documented.
3. No more than 10 percent of each geographical component of the management area will be in clearcuts in the 0 to 10 year age class.
4. Timber yields are chargeable yields.

*Exceptions to this limit should be identified and justified in the silvicultural prescription process.

Management Area 15 - (cont.)

Water

Watershed Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals

Exploration and Development

1. Mineral and energy leases will require special stipulations which may preclude surface occupancy.

Protection

All

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Special Use Management

1. Special uses will be allowed to the extent that they are compatible with the objective of the area.
2. Any new utility installations will be underground.

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads Management

1. All new roads will be managed as intermittent.

Trails Management

1. A highly developed hiking trails network will be provided with accompanying trail head parking facilities and area trail maps.
2. Sign trails thoroughly. Feature one-day loop trails and short interpretive trails.
3. As the need develops, consider constructing and designating horse trails.

MANAGEMENT AREA 16 (613,662 acres)

Description

This management area consists of all Forest lands not included in the other management areas and is referred to as the general forest area. These lands are located in the following Drainage Basin Response Units:*

Blue Ridge DBRU - 428,903 acres
Upper Piedmont DBRU - 36,952 acres
Lower Piedmont DBRU - 86,221 acres
Ridge and Valley DBRU - 61,586 acres

Area contains 7,402 acres of land that are not available for timber production, 54,142 acres that are not appropriate - not cost efficient for timber production, and 569,122 acres that are suitable for timber production.

Management Goals

To administer the area in compliance with the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act of 1960.

Management Direction

Emphasis placed on the maintenance in perpetuity of a high level annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the Forests without impairment to the productivity of the land.

The following unique and delicate resources are located in this MA:

- a. Devilsden - Polecat Branch Coves
- b. Upper High Shoals Cove
- c. Snake Creek Slopes
- d. Gladesville Glades
- e. Hedden Creek Falls
- f. Sinking Mountain
- g. ~~Currahee Mountain~~
- h. Tumbling Creek

*Blue Ridge DBRU (Districts - 02, 03, 04, 05, 06, 07), Upper Piedmont (District 06), Lower Piedmont DBRU (District 08), Ridge and Valley DBRU (District 01).

Management Area 16 - (cont.)

Recreation

Recreation Management

1. Semi-primitive (25 percent) and Roaded Natural (75 percent) recreation opportunities are featured in this area.
2. Maintain existing primitive dispersed recreation sites at a level that will not create environmental degradation.

Visual Quality

1. 66,266 acres have a VQO of partial retention.
2. 134,657 acres have a VQO of modification.
3. 412,739 acres have a VQO of maximum modification.

Wildlife
and Fisheries

Wildlife Habitat

1. See Forest-wide Standard and Guidelines.
2. Wildlife objective is to provide the public with a wide range of hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive opportunities for enjoying wildlife through intensive management.
3. Favor late successional management indicator species such as bear, squirrel, turkey, pileated woodpecker, dusky salamander, and yellow lady slipper where the selection method is used. Favor early successional species such as deer, grouse, quail, and indigo bunting where clear-cutting, seedtree, and shelterwood methods are used.

Unique and Delicate Resource

1. Manage these areas to preserve their integrity as unique areas.
2. Protect *shortia galacifolia* on Heddin Creek.
- ~~3. Protect *Echenacea laevigata* on Currahee Mountain.~~
4. Do not use herbicides in Gladesville Glades so as to protect Ogelthorpe Oak.
5. Protect *Cymophyllus fraserii* on Tumbling Creek.

Management Area 16 - (Cont.)

Range

Range Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Timber

Timber Harvest

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.
2. Timber yields are chargeable yields.

Water

Watershed Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Minerals
and Energy

Exploration and Development

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Protection

Fire Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Insect and Disease

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Lands

Special Use Management

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Land Ownership Adjustment

1. See appendix G for land acquisition and exchange priority listing. (Land Ownership Adjustment Plan)

Soils

Improvements and Maintenance

1. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

Facilities

Roads and Structures

1. See appendix B for facilities investment schedule.
2. See appendix A for engineering design and layout specifications for system roads.
3. See Forest-wide Standards and Guidelines.

LITERATURE REVIEW

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